“It Takes a Village”
Launching and Retaining Successful On-Site Bachelor Degree Cohorts
DEPAUL UNIVERSITY

- Located in Chicago, Illinois
- 10 academic colleges with over 300 majors and graduate programs
- Diverse student population
  - 22,064 enrollment
  - Transfer students make up more than 40% of DePaul’s undergraduate population
- 2018-2019
  - DePaul enrolled 1,707 transfer students
HARPER COLLEGE

- Community college in northwest suburban Chicago
- Historically a top transfer sending institution for DePaul
  - Fall 2019: 135 enrolled
- Enrollment: 13,530
- 34% Full Time, 66% Part Time
- 67% 24 and Under, 33% Over 24
- 50% White, 28% Latinx, 13% Asian, 4% African American

IPEDS College Navigator, nces.gov/collegenavigator
THE UNIVERSITY CENTER

• Launched in Fall 2018

• Offers opportunity to complete a bachelor’s degree on Harper’s campus from one of three university partners
  • DePaul University
  • Northern Illinois University
  • Roosevelt University

• All partners offer different degree options with an emphasis on in-person courses
THE PARTNERSHIP

- Update meetings with Harper leadership team and all university partner representatives
- Coordination of Open House events for prospective students
- Providing office space for DePaul staff and faculty
- Involvement in Harper Strategic Planning process
- Open channels of communication and feedback
- Equal investment in success of the University Center
STUDENT BENEFITS

• 25% discount off the part-time, per credit hour tuition rate
• Preplanned curriculum for the courses students take
• Cohort learning providing a learning network
• Lifelong DePaul network
• DePaul faculty teaching at Harper College
ADMISSION AND RECRUITMENT
PROGRAMS

- Bachelor of Arts, Communication and Media
  - Daytime, full-time program; Monday through Thursday
  - Requires 4 prerequisite courses

- Bachelor of Arts in Professional Studies, Business Administration
  - Evening program, part or full-time; Tuesday and Thursday from 6:00PM-9:15PM

- RN-MS
  - Graduate program
  - Students must have RN to be considered for the admission
ENROLLMENT

Communication and Media

- Fall 2018: 14
- Winter 2019: 1
- Fall 2019: 16

Enrolled Communication and Media Students
RECRUITMENT AND COUNSELING

• Appointment visits
  • Meet with ALL Harper student interest

• Open house events
  • Hosted by Harper College

• Preview events

• Online and on-campus information sessions
CREATING A NEW PARTNERSHIP

• Application creation

• New communication plan

• New student coding

• Data sharing amongst partners
ACADEMIC ADVISING
STUDENT TRANSITION

• Contact from admission and assigned advisor
• Advisor meeting
  • On-site at Harper or over the phone
• Transfer courses articulated to degree
DEDICATED ADVISING

• Review the basics
  • Transfer courses
  • Cohort structure
  • Degree requirements
  • Flexible nature of degree (PT v. FT)
• Timeframe
• Next steps
STUDENT SERVICES

• Information Sessions
  • Grad programs
  • Financial aid
  • Career services

• Services
  • ID cards
  • Print/Copy
  • Library services
RETENTION

• Advising
  • Contacts and enrolls each student each term
  • Monitors every student’s completion plan
  • Guides students in graduation application process
  • Co-mingled cohort classes
• Peer mentoring
• Student engagement
  • “Octoberfest”
  • Capstone project presentations
LESSONS LEARNED

• Communication, both externally and internally, is key
  • Campus emergency closing
  • Classroom needs & arrangements

• Greater flexibility = greater chance for success
  • Students will not fit one model

• Time dedicated to developing a cohort vs typical on-campus enrollment

• Space on Harper’s campus

• Additional student services required

• Varying academic calendar dates

• Faculty orientation
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